

Message Text

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65

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CCO-00 PC-01 FAA-00

EB-07 DOTE-00 FBIE-00 NEA-10 SCS-03 FBO-02 DHA-02

AID-05 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 SP-02 OC-05

OPR-02 PA-01 USSS-00 PRS-01 SCA-01 A-01 OMB-01 SS-15

SY-05 /108 W

----- 090177

Z O 052136Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE FLASH 825

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO FLASH

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM FLASH

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L K A U A L A L U M P U R 4 5 8 2

C O R R R E C T E D C O P Y (GARBLES THRU-OUT TEXT)

E.O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJ: TERRORISTS ATTACK IN KUALA LUMPUR

1. CONFIRMING MY 3:00 AM WEDNESDAY, AUG 6 TELCON WITH
OPERATIONS CENTER, FOLLIW IS PRESENT STATE OF PLAY ON MAJOR
ITEMS:

A. DESTINATION: TERRORISTS HAVE NO CLEAR IDEA OF WHERE
THEY WANT TO GO. OTHER THAN THAT THEY HAVE ARAB COUNTRY IN MID.
TOP OF LIST INCLUDES SOUTH YEMEN (PDRY), SYRIA,
AND LIBYA, FOLLOWED BY ALGERIA AND UNITED ARAB EMIRATES. IN
RESPONSE TO GHAZALI SHAFIE'S REQUEST I SAID THAT I WOULD
ASK MY GOVERNMENT IF IT COULD ASSIST IN ATTEMPTING TO ARRANGE
ADMISSION TO SYRIA OR TO LIBYA.
THIS IS ONLY RPT ONLY AREA OF U.S. UNDERTAKING IN
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NEGOTIATIONS. POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE FOR TERRORISTS

TO DEPART K.L. BEFORE DETERMINING DESTINATION.
B. ARMS: I CALCULATE THAT IT NINETY PERCENT AGREED THAT
TERRORISTS WOULD TAKE ONLY SIDEARMS AND WOULD
"MAKE WEAPONS SAFE". THIS TO BE READ: UNLOADED.
C. SIZE OF CREW: JAL ADAMANT THAT THEY WILL NOT TAKE OFF WITH
LESS THAN CREW OF EIGHT. TERRORISTS INSISTENT THAT CREW NOT BE
MORE THAN THREE.
D. HOSTAGES: INITIAL TERRORIST POSITION WAS THAT
THEY WOULD TAKE FIFTEEN "DIPLOMATS" WITH THEM. TERM
"DIPLOMATS" NOT DEFINED. TERRORISTS
DETERMINED TO LEAVE AIA
BUILDING AT 8:00 AM TODAY WHETHER DESTINATION QUESTION RESOLVED
OR NOT. AT ONE POINT TERRORIST LEADER SAID DISCUSSIONS OF DESTINATION
COULD CONTINUE AT AIRPORT. SUBSEQUENTLY, SUBSTITUTION OF TOW "BIG"
(READ:
SENIOR OFFICIALS) FOR FIFTEEN "LITTLE" (READ: PRESENT HOSTAGES)
EVOLVED. TERRORISTS SUGGESTED JAPANESE AMBASSADOR WHO IMPLIED
HE WILLING TO BE ONE OF TWO "BIG" OFFICIALS.
IF NECESSARY JAPANESE OFFICIALS FROM MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS AND FROM MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION ALSO WILLING TO
BE "BIG" HOSTAGES. IF FIFTEEN "LITTLE" CONCEPT PREVAILS, IT
APPEARS ALMOST CERTAIN THAT CONSUL STEBBINS WOULD BE AMONG THOSE
ACCOMPANYING TERRORISTS, ALONG WITH SWEDISH CHARGE. AT ONE
POINT, TERRORISTS CONSIDERED LEAVING WOMEN AND CHILDREN AND
TAKING ONLY MEN, BUT THIS EVOLVED INTO "FIFTEEN FOR TWO" FORMULA.
I HAVE IN MIND OUR POSITION ON THIS QUESTION, BUT HAVE
NOT YET BEEN REQUIRED TO STATE FORMAL POSITION PER STATE 184178.

2. IT IS VIEW OF GHAZALI SHAFIE THAT IF DESTINATION
QUESTION RESOLVED, OTHER OUTSTANDING ISSUES WILL BE MUCH EASIER TO
WORK OUT.

3. PER YOUR QUERY, USE OF TERM "GUARANTORS" HAS THUS FAR ONLY
BEEN USED TO INDICATE "BIG" OFFICIALS
AS OPPOSED TO HOSTAGES. THE TERRORISTS DO HAVE PLENT OF
EXPLOSIVES. IN GOM VIEW, PLASTIC AND GRENADES ARE VERY DANGEROUS
BUT ARMS LESS SO. TERRORISTS' DEFINITION OF "SAFE" MEANS
UNLOADED. WE ARE ALL VERY DICEY ABOUT EXPLOSIVES ABOARD ACFT.

4. TERRORSIT LEADER SEEM TIRED BUT CALM, SPEAKING SLOWLY, AMOST WITH
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LASSITUDE. BELIEVE THEY ARE JUST WEARY, AS WE ARE.

5. I FEEL THAT SMELL OF GETTING ON PLANE HAS JUST STRUCK
TERRORISTS AND THAT THIS IS NOW VERY STRONG.

6. I HAVE ONLY UNDERTAKEN TO ASK MY GOVERNMENT IF IT COULD ASSIST
IN FINDING DESTINATION FOR TERRORISTS AS REQUESTED OF ME BY
GHAZALI SHAFIE AND TO ATTEMPT TO PROVIDE TELEPHONE NBRS OF FOREIGN

MINISTRIES IN THE FIVE LISTED COUNTRIES. I HAVE NOT
BEEN ASKED, NOR HAVE I UNDERTAKEN, TO DO ANYTHING ELSE.

7. NO FURTHER CONVERSATIONS WITH TERRORISTS ARE EXPECTED UNTIL
AROUND 8:00 AM TODAY, ALTHOUGH THE CONVERSATIONS MAY START
AROUND 7:00 AM. THE GOM IS CONSIDERING TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS TO
THE AIRPORT. I WISH TO REITERATE THAT THE GOM THUS FAR IS DOING
VERY WELL IN ITS HANDLING OF THIS MATTER.
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